

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Environmental Science Services Administration

in cooperation with
Cotton Economic Research and
Bureau of Business Research of
The University of Texas at Austin

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-41

LATITUDE 33° 36' N
LONGITUDE 96° 11' W
ELEV. (GROUND) 566 ft.

STATION BONHAM, TEXAS

CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1939-1967

Month	Temperature (°F)							** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)							Mean number of days											
	Means			Extremes					Mean	Greatest daily	Year	Snow, Sleet				Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures		Max.	Min.							
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest	Year					Mean	Maximum monthly	Year	Greatest Depth	90° and above	32° and below	32° and below	0° and below								
(a)	28	28	28	28	1952	-3	1949	698	2.30	5.21	1949	1.6	11.2	1948	7	1956	3	0	2	19	0	Jan					
Jan	54.0	32.9	43.5	82	1952	-3	1949	698	2.30	5.21	1948	0.2	2.3	1948	1	1959	4	0	*	12	0	Feb					
Feb	58.5	36.0	47.3	84	1960+	-4	1951	506	3.05	3.10	1948	0.2	2.3	1948	1	1959	5	*	0	6	0	Mar					
Mar	66.5	42.7	54.6	94	1940	9	1948	363	3.20	3.62	1945	0.2	6.0	1942	1	1964	7	*	0	1	0	Apr					
Apr	75.7	52.9	64.3	99	1940	28	1954	101	5.43	4.80	1942	*	1.0	1955	0	1955	7	*	0	1	0	May					
May	82.4	61.3	72.0	99	1958	36	1954	15	5.38	6.25	1948	0	0	1955	0	1955	6	4	0	0	0	Jun					
Jun	89.5	49.2	79.4	108	1953	50	1955	1	4.64	4.95	1951	0	0	1950	0	1950	6	17	0	0	0	Jul					
Jul	94.6	72.7	83.7	112	1943	57	1967	0	3.12	3.85	1950	0	0	1950	0	1950	4	27	0	0	0	Aug					
Aug	95.8	71.3	83.6	114	1943	52	1961	0	2.35	3.15	1966	0	0	1966	0	1966	3	27	0	0	0	Sep					
Sep	89.1	63.7	76.4	109	1939	40	1967+	4	3.98	7.15	1967	0	0	1967	0	1967	5	14	0	0	0	Oct					
Oct	79.3	53.2	66.3	103	1939	26	1957+	81	3.32	3.95	1959	0	0	1959	0	1959	3	3	0	*	0	Nov					
Nov	66.1	42.4	54.3	88	1964	11	1950	317	3.09	4.90	1957	*	0.5	1951	0	1951	5	0	0	5	0	Dec					
Dec	56.8	35.3	46.1	86	1955	5	1963	598	2.98	2.35	1959	0.4	5.2	1958	4	1958	5	0	1	13	0						
Year	75.7	52.8	64.3	114	Aug.	1943	-4	Feb.	1951	2684	42.55	7.15	Sept.	1967	2.4	11.2	Jan.	1948	7	Jan.	1956	56	92	3	56	0	Year

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

* Less than one half.

** Base 65°F

THE CLIMATE OF BONHAM, TEXAS

Bonham is the county seat and principal commercial center for Fannin County. Local industries turn out trailers, mattresses, mops and brooms. The town is named for James Butler Bonham, one of the defenders of the Alamo. Sam Rayburn Library, dedicated to the man who served as Speaker of the House of Representatives longer than any other person in American history is located in Bonham. This monument to the late "Mister Sam," faced in white Georgia marble, duplicates his U. S. Capitol office in its entirety, and is filled with significant mementos of those historic occasions in Congress in which Speaker Rayburn participated. Less than four miles from Bonham is Bonham State Park, a recreational area of 550 beautifully wooded acres which includes a fine fishing lake of 65 acres. Facilities for boating and swimming are available. Fannin is a north central Texas county bordering Oklahoma. It is mostly rolling prairie, drained by the Red River and Bois d'Arc Creek. Elevations range from 500 to 700 feet. Blackland soils cover most of the county. About two-thirds of farm income is from field crops, chiefly cotton, small grains, and peanuts. Dairying and beef cattle are the chief livestock enterprises.

Summer temperatures are usually not excessive; however, light winds during the late afternoon cause high temperatures to be more oppressive than they would be at higher wind speeds. Refrigerated air-conditioning is recommended for maximum comfort indoors.

The spring and fall are delightful seasons, with warm days and cool nights.

Peak rainfall occurs in April, May, and June, mostly as the result of thunderstorms. The months with least rainfall, on an average, are January and August. Considerable variation in rainfall may occur from month to month in any one year, and from year to year. The year 1957 was the wettest year on record (since 1903); very heavy rains in April, May, and November contributed to a total of 65.19 inches in that year. Only 12.72 inches fell in 1910, the driest on record.

Snow may fall once or twice a month during the winter season, but usually is of little or no consequence. A few exceptionally heavy snows bias the snowfall data with the result that the arithmetic mean is a poor estimate of expected snowfall.

The growing season (freeze free period) at Bonham averages 221 days. The mean dates of the last occurrence of 32°F in the spring and the first occurrence of 32°F in the fall are March 30 and November 6, respectively.

Average annual relative humidity is 82 percent at 6:00 a.m., 57 percent at noon, and 54 percent at 6:00 p.m., Central Standard Time. The area receives about 67 percent of the total possible sunshine annually. Mean annual lake evaporation is about 54 inches.

About 50 thunderstorms occur each year. A few of these thunderstorms may be accompanied by destructive wind or hailstorms, or high intensity rainfall.

The climate of Bonham is humid subtropical with warm summers. Rainfall is abundant, averaging 42.55 inches annually, and is evenly distributed throughout the year. Prevailing winds are southeasterly March through December, and northerly January through February. Thus, the Gulf of Mexico plays a dominant role in the climate of the area during the spring, summer, and fall months, while modified polar air masses contribute significantly to the winter climate.

Winter temperatures are mild. Minimum temperatures of 32°F or below occur less than 50 percent of the time. The daily maximum temperature fails to exceed 32°F on about three days each year. Infrequent arctic air masses moving southward out of Canada bring sharp drops in temperature, but usually cold spells are of short duration; the weather turning cold one day, reaching the lowest temperature on the second night, then warming up again on the third day. The winds accompanying a vigorous cold front may be strong and gusty, but decrease rapidly soon after its passage.

